GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1069
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2003
SCARCITY OF WATER
SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation has pointed out in its recent report that there were serious water problems in some developing countries.

(b) if so, whether India is reported to be one of the most affected country;

(c) if so, the reasons mentioned in the report ; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the water scarcity in the coming years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) As per the Report entitled "Unlocking the Water Potential of Agriculture", individual countries have not been named as water scarcity nations. It indicates that one in five developing countries would face water shortage by 2030. It is mentioned in the report that irrigated areas in the developing countries are expected to increase from currently 205 million hectare to 242 million hectare and water withdrawals for irrigation is projected to increase by 14 percent by 2030. By 2030, East Asia, the Near East and North Africa would be using three-quarters of their irrigable land and South Asia almost 90 percent.

(d) In order to augment the availability of water in the country for irrigation and other uses and for their efficient use, storage capacity of 177 billion cubic metre (BCM) has been created. Another 75 BCM of storage will be created on completion of projects which are under various stages of construction. Proposals for additional projects are also under formulation/consideration for creation of storage capacity of 132 BCM. To accelerate creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP).Government of India is also promoting rainwater harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rainwater harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis. Assistance is also being extended to State Governments under Command Area Development (CAD) programme for bridging the gap between potential created and utilized. For meeting future requirements of water, as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins, wherever feasible as per consensus between donor-donee States.